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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Flora and Fauna/Climate/Border Markings

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DATE OF INFORMATION

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SOURCE

1. Vegetation coverage in the border area between Ruthenia and Poland, bounded by 49°00'N--49°30'N, and 21°00'E--22°30'E varies between scattered woodland cutover land and farm acreage. Wooded areas are thick with heavy underbrush. Predominate tree types are pine and Czech buk. Wild berries abound in Ruthenia with cherries, strawberries, blackberries, and raspberries in abundance in cutover areas. An edible nut, lieskove oriesky, is available.
2. Wooded areas afford opportunity for lumbering, a source of employment for many farmers during the winter months. Every third or fourth village has a small mill. Logs are dragged by horses out of woods to nearest road. Trucks haul logs from that point to nearest mill.
3. Farms are mostly truck farms. Crops consist of corn, melons, red cabbage, horseradish, carrots, beans, and onions. Farming area has been collectivized into kolkhozes post World War II.
4. Fresh water streams carry white fish, while carp are numerous in ponds and lakes. Two non-poisonous varieties of water snake are found. A poisonous snake, called vretenica, growing to a length of about three feet, brown colored with a black stripe, is native to the area.

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5. In a letter mention was made of the existence of wolves, wild pigs, and wildcats in Polish border area. Prior to World War II none of these animals were noticed. Rabbits have always been native. Sparse population in border area probably accounts for existence of wildcats and wolves.

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6. Climate is temperate in summer with cold winters. Snow remains from early December till early March. In winter months snow packs hard and is about two feet deep. Walking is no effort. Many back roads are impassable for vehicles due to drifts during winter.
7. Border between Czechoslovakia and Poland in Ruthenia is clearly marked with white concrete markers. They stand about three and one-half feet in height, have four flat sides and an arched top. Initials CSR in black indented letters are stamped on one side, and P on the other. Markers are spaced at intervals of one kilometer.

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